

Beginning with the next issue, April 1999, no. 289, *Selected References* will be published SEMIANNUALLY and distributed in April and October. The annual "Noteworthy Books in Industrial Relations and Labor Economics" compilation will continue to be the April issue.

SELECTED REFERENCES

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS SECTION

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

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Labor-Related Statistical Data on the Web**

DOMESTIC

America's Career InfoNet <http://www.acinet.org/acinet/>

This site provides recent data about occupations, their wages (medians and midranges) for states and for the country as a whole, and trends in employment and job growth. It also contains a profile for each state giving recent demographic, income and unemployment statistics, rankings of occupations by largest employment, fastest growing, highest paying, and most openings. The sources for the information include the Bureau of Labor Statistics and state departments and agencies.

Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) <http://stats.bls.gov/>

Perhaps the richest source of domestic labor statistical data, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) home page provides numerous links for obtaining data in a variety of ways. In some instances, the link leads to a table. In other cases, users must complete a form for the system to extract and produce a table of the desired data. Some of the more useful links from the BLS home page are:

1) *Economy at a Glance*, quick access to tables or graphs of current monthly economic indicators such as labor market, hours, earnings, productivity and prices on a monthly basis;

2) *Publications and Research Papers*, which links to the *Monthly Labor Review* online from 1990, the *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, and *Compensation and Working Conditions* online from 1996;

3) *Data*, which in turn gives the user six different choices:

a) *Economy at a Glance*; b) *Most Requested Series*, a simple checklist for selecting time series, should satisfy the majority of user requests and is most appropriate for browsing; c) *Selective Access*, which is best used for specific requests, provides step-by-step assistance in formulating queries to submit to the BLS LABSTAT database in order to extract time series data based on selected demographic variables; d) *Series Report*, allows experienced users to input BLS time series identifiers and date ranges for the quickest form of access to BLS time series data; e) *News Releases*, contains pre-formatted data tables along with text explanations grouped according to major BLS statistical categories; and f) the FTP link to the BLS server is for users who need to transfer a large volume of time series data.***

* Prepared by Linda Oppenheim, Social Sciences Reference Librarian, Judith S. Rowe, Senior Data Services Specialist, and Bobray Bordelon, Economics Librarian

** We are providing URLs for World Wide Web sites that are commonly available to Internet users at no cost. Links within each site are shown in italics; some of these links may no longer be active. We have avoided listing data available only to subscribers, such as the ICPSR (Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research), and costly, finance-related CD-ROMs such as FAME Economics (the former Citibase Macroeconomic Database) or Compustat.

*** Data extraction systems which provide for the downloading of basic data are designed for use by experienced data users familiar with the use of data analysis or statistical software such as SAS, SPSS, or STATA. With these packages one can take the anonymous microdata, individual household and/or person records and produce tables or aggregate data in other forms.

4) *Surveys and Programs*, which displays data by topic, including such important series as consumer and producer price indexes, major work stoppages, occupational injury and illness rates, and foreign comparative data.

5) *Other Statistical Sites*, which provides links to the principal United States federal statistical agencies and to international statistical agencies.

Bureau of the Census <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/laborfor.html/>

The Labor Force Statistics page includes texts of P-70 reports, *Dynamics of Economic Well-Being*, available either in text or PDF format. There is also a link to the *Survey of Income and Program Participation* (SIPP), <http://www.sipp.census.gov/sipp/>, the longitudinal survey of adults in households designed to improve the measurement of the economic situation of persons, families, and households in the United States, and the effects of Federal and state programs on the wellbeing of families and individuals. While the data extraction system is designed for the proficient data user, the link to *Publications and Analyses*, contains statistical briefs, SIPP P-70 Reports, SIPP Working Papers and other publications available in either PDF or text format.***

Current Population Survey <http://www.bls.census.gov/cps/cpsmain.htm> ***

The Bureau of the Census has conducted the Current Population Survey (CPS) for the Bureau of Labor Statistics for more than 50 years. It is the primary source of information on the labor force characteristics of the population of the United States. Estimates obtained from the CPS include employment, unemployment, earnings, hours of work, and other indicators and are available by a variety of demographic and other characteristics. In the *Basic Monthly Survey* of the scientifically selected 50,000-household sample representing the civilian non-institutional population, information is obtained about the employment status of each member of the household 16 years of age and over. *Supplements* to the basic CPS include: the *Annual Demographic Survey*, which gathers information on more than 50 different sources of income, including non-cash benefits, and on comprehensive work experience, *Displaced Workers, Race and Ethnicity, Contingent Workers and Alternative Employment, Job Tenure and Occupational Mobility, School Enrollment, Work Experience, and Work Schedules*. The link to *Publications* provides tables on numerous topics from Census Bureau press releases. They can be accessed through a subject index, a chronological list of news releases, or a publication keyword search form.

National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) <http://nces01.ed.gov/>

The National Center for Education Statistics' mission fulfills a congressional mandate to collect, collate, analyze, and report complete statistics on the condition of American education. The site provides keyword searching of numerous reports, some of which are available in PDF format. In addition, the site contains statistical compendia, including: 1) *Condition of Education*, which focuses on 60 key indicators of the condition and progress of education; 2) *Projections of Education Statistics to 2008*, a collection of projections including enrollment, graduates, classroom teachers, and expenditures; 3 & 4) *The Digest of Education Statistics*, which includes more than 400 tables on a wide variety of education topics from many sources and *The Mimi-Digest of Education Statistics*, which gives a statistical portrait of education in the United States; 5) *Youth Indicators*, a statistical compilation of data on family structure, jobs, education, and other elements; and 6) *Education in States and Nations*, that focuses primarily on comparisons between the United States and other industrialized nations with large economies. From the main page, click on *Electronic Catalog*. Under the heading Released NCES Products, link to the *Online Data Access Tools* page, on which the *Statistical Compendia* link is listed.

Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) <http://www.osha.gov/oshstats/>

The *Statistics & Data* page for OSHA provides standards as well as links to *Workplace Injury and Illness Statistics*. Some tables for incidence rates and fatalities are text files that display immediately, while some are pdf files requiring Adobe Acrobat Reader. The Bureau of Labor Statistics provides the source material, data and tables. OSHA-specific statistics on data and time series information is monitored through the OSHA Office of Statistics.

Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID) <http://www.isr.umich.edu/src/psid/>***

The data collection for this study has been ongoing since 1968 with the aim of providing a better understanding of the determinants of family income and its changes. It continues to trace individuals from the original national sample of approximately 4,800 households. The investigators hoped to discover whether most short-term changes in economic status are due to forces outside the family or if they can be traced to something in the individual's own background or in the pattern of his or her thinking and behavior. The questions asked deal specifically with topics such as employment, income sources and amounts, housing, car ownership, food expenditures, transportation, do-it-yourself home maintenance and car repairs, education, disability, time use, family background, family composition changes, and residential location. Supplemental information on additional topics, such as health, wealth, retirement plans, flows of time and money, help among families and their friends, and motivation and efficacy, is gathered on an intermittent basis. The *Bibliography* link from the PSID homepage leads to a list of publications, working papers and government reports based on the Panel Study of Income Dynamics. Custom subsets from the PSID final-release and early-release main datasets can be created through the *Data Center* link. The *Data Files* link allows downloading of entire datasets: main datasets 1968-1993 (final release), supplemental datasets and documentation, and main datasets 1993-1996 (early release). A 1992 CD-ROM includes 1968-1992 final release and supplemental files.

INTERNATIONAL

Eurostat <http://europa.eu.int/en/comm/eurostat/serven/home.htm>

Eurostat's mission includes providing the European Union with "a high-quality statistical information service for devising, managing and assessing common policies; setting up a European statistical system using a common language linking the national statistical systems; ... and supplying the general public with statistical information, including the use of new electronic media." One result is the development of the home page of the Statistical Office of the European Communities with the following useful links:

1) *Online Indicators*

- a) *Euro-Indicators* provides access to monthly and quarterly data from the mid-1990's. Under *National Accounts* the information includes compensation of employees, gross wages and salaries. The *Labour Market* heading includes total employment (in the total economy and in industry, manufacturing, and construction), wage and salary earners (national accounts concepts), and unemployment (ILO definition).
- b) *EU Indicators* organizes its links by themes. Under *General Statistics* is a link for harmonized unemployment rates.

2) *Press Releases* lists a link to a release calendar for Euro-Indicators.

3) *Links and Contacts* leads to home pages of national statistical institutes and international organizations.

International Labour Organization (ILO) <http://www.ilo.org/>

Providing technical assistance for labor statistics lies within the mandate of the ILO, which is the specialized agency of the United Nations seeking to promote social justice and internationally recognized human and labor rights. The ILO homepage itself does not provide a direct link to statistical sources. Neither the *Yearbook of Labour Statistics* nor the *Bulletin of Labour Statistics* is yet available on the web. Statistics on a specific subject can be found by using the ILO search engine, pairing the word “statistics” or “table” with the subject of interest. (A word of warning: the phrase “table of contents” in a document will also match a search using the word “table.”) One useful and easy-to-use page is the *Cost of Social Security-Basic Tables 1990-1993* (<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/110secso/css/cssindex.htm>). The links to social security costs and expenditures worldwide, for at least one of the inclusive years, are listed alphabetically by country.

Luxembourg Income Study (LIS) and the Luxembourg Employment Study (LES) <http://lissy.ceps.lu/> ***

Since its beginning in 1983, the LIS Project has grown into a cooperative research project with a membership that includes countries in Europe, North America, the Far East and Australia. The database now contains information on more than 25 countries for one or more years. The social and economic data are collected from household surveys. The LIS databank has a total of over 60 datasets covering the period 1968 to 1997. Since 1994, a new project associated with LIS was set up; the Luxembourg Employment Study, in which micro data from 13 national labor force surveys have been standardized and made available for comparative research. Additional country files became available during 1998. The aim of the LES project is to construct a databank from countries with quite different labor market structures. These surveys provide detailed information on areas like job search, employment characteristics, comparable occupations, investment in education, and migration. Academic researchers may submit requests for data from the databank by using SAS, SPSS or STATA statistical packages, incorporating the job into the body of the e-mail request.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) <http://www.oecd.org/>

The OECD promotes the economic and social welfare of its twenty-nine member nations by assisting in the design and coordination of national policies. While *Statistics* is a link on the Organisation’s homepage, it often leads only to publication information for the print or electronic product and does not provide actual text or data. Also, the currency of the data depends on the link one chooses. For example, the *Standardized Unemployment Rates* graph and table listed as the newest update under the *Labour Force Statistics* link dates to April 1997. Under the *Frequently Requested Statistics* link, one can find an archive of these figures dating back to the March 1996 news release and as current as January 1999. The country graphs found through the *Main Economic Indicators* link include a graph for *Labour Market* showing the unemployment rate for the selected country over four years. The figures and some of the text are available in PDF format. *OECD in Figures*, which offers a snapshot of OECD economies through various subject categories, including employment, can be found through the *Free Documents* link on the OECD main page, as well as through the *Statistics* link.